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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Republic of Croatia accepts the message of the Presidential statement [document S/25178] issued at the meeting of the Security Council on 27 January 1993. All the advances of the Croatian Army have ceased. However, the Serbian side - paramilitary units and "militia" - continues its offensive, which Croatia regards as continuation of the aggression on its territory. In spite of that, Croatia will continue to take all necessary steps in implementing its obligations under resolution 802 (1993). In the light of these recent events, the Croatian Army is now forced to act defensively, and the Republic of Croatia cannot be responsible for prolonged hostilities.

The illegal and extremist leadership in Knin, aided by the Serbian authorities in Belgrade, wish to keep the front-line active - thus exerting additional pressure on the Republic of Croatia in the Security Council, in an attempt to undermine the peace talks in Geneva. There have been various independent reports that thousands of well-armed men - so-called "volunteers" - are coming from Serbia to "help their Serbian brothers in the Republic of Krajina", in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 769 (1992). We have reason to believe that this has been orchestrated and organized by the regime in Belgrade.

The Serbian offensive now poses a serious threat to the security of United Nations personnel in the region. Consequently, Serbian paramilitary units have regained the control of the Peruca dam, and are now threatening to destroy it; they are keeping members of the Kenyan battalion of UNPROFOR as hostages on the site of the dam; as reported by the Secretary-General, they are holding 21 United Nations personnel hostage in Benkovac. Croatia is providing UNPROFOR with all the necessary help to ensure its safety.

These events are contrary to Croatian goals - establishing peace in the region, normalization of the living conditions of the civilian population, and rebuilding and reconstruction of infrastructure. The crucial and strategic aims of the limited Croatian action are the facilitation of road communication through Adriatic highways, and the voluntary return of refugees in the "pink zone" adjacent to the UNPA Sector South.

We kindly ask the Security Council to further encourage the United Nations forces on the ground to help mediate a local cease-fire, so that comprehensive negotiations on the political settlement can be continued, in accordance with the Vance Plan. Croatia urges the Security Council to use its authority in order to enable the implementation of resolutions 762 (1992), 769 (1992), 779 (1992), 802 (1993) and all other relevant resolutions. We reiterate our firm belief that a lasting peace and stability in the region cannot be achieved without enforcing the three pillars of the Vance Plan: disarming and dismantling all the paramilitary units in the UNPAs, restitution of the heavy weapons to the custody of UNPROFOR, and the immediate voluntary return of all the refugees and displaced persons.

I kindly ask for your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassador Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Croatia to the United Nations
